

us below, p. 155), the Curlew-Sandpiper (*Tringa subarquata*) is omitted in the list, though mentioned in the text (see p. 209). The volume is well printed, well illustrated, and well mapped, and does great credit to all who are concerned in it.

XII.—Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.

WE have received the following letters, addressed “to the Editors” :—

SIRS,—I am much surprised to learn from Mr. Ogilvie Grant’s ‘Game-birds of the British Museum,’ p. 65, and Game-birds, in ‘Allen’s Naturalist’s Library,’ p. 52, that the Ural Capercaillie, *Tetrao urogallus uralensis*, was first described by Mr. Nazarov. The facts are that, when working with the late Mr. Severtzow, I found some differences between the Capercaillies from Central and Eastern Russia, and in my manuscript-catalogue of the birds of Russia I named the eastern form *Tetrao urogallus*, var. *uralensis*. This name was employed by Mr. Nazarov, my pupil in ornithology, to whom, when he was making the list of Kirgeez birds (‘Recherches zoologiques’ &c.), I communicated both my own list of Russian birds and Severtzow’s list of the birds of the valley of the river Ural, with this bird designated as follows :—

“TETRAO UROGALLUS, var. URALENSIS, Sev. & Menzb.”

A little later, after a careful comparison of Central-Russian Capercaillies with specimens from Eastern Russia, received by me through the kindness of Mr. Lorenz, I deduced a conclusion that the eastern Capercaillie was a good subspecies, and I expressed my idea on this subject in ‘The Ibis’ (1887, p. 303), where for the first time a diagnosis of the bird was published, though many skins were sent abroad previously by Mr. Lorenz under the name “*Tetrao urogallus*, var. *uralensis*, Menzb.”

Hoping that you will be good enough to re-establish the truth by publishing this letter,

Yours &c.,

M. MENZBIER.

University, Moscow,
October 18th, 1895.

SIRS,—With reference to your notice ('The Ibis,' 1895, p. 495) of Mr. Harvie-Brown's pamphlet on the island of Rockall, I should like to mention that subsequently to the publication of this I have seen Captain Edward Freshwater, of the Grimsby cod-liner 'Undine,' and formerly of the 'Ada.' In the latter Capt. Freshwater has fished off Rockall, and he has given me much interesting information as to the appearance and character of the rock and the names of those species of birds which he supposed to resort there for breeding purposes. Amongst these he mentioned one as nesting which he called the "Rockall Lyre-bird," a large sort of Shearwater, and this was common in the vicinity. He had fished in all parts of the North Sea and had never seen this bird anywhere except here and on the Færoe bank. This doubtless is *Puffinus major*. It is to be hoped that in the next summer some enterprising ornithologist will succeed in reaching and landing upon the rock—a most difficult matter, even in the calmest weather—so as to verify this statement. According to Herr H. C. Müller, *Uria brunnichi* is also found nesting on Rockall, but further confirmation as regards this species also is very desirable.

Yours &c.,

JOHN CORDEAUX.

Great Cotes House, R. S. O., Lincoln,
October 22nd, 1895.

SIRS,—May I, in 'The Ibis,' correct a mistake in my book 'Ice-bound on Kolguev'? "Brünnich's Guillemot" (p. 20) should be "The Common Guillemot."

By a mischance the Curlew-Sandpiper, though referred to in the body of the book, is missing from the special chapter and from the index. In this connexion the word "back" should, of course, be "beak."

Yours &c.,

AUBYN TREVOR-BATTYE.

Rare Birds at Madras.—From the Report of the Madras Government Museum for the year 1894-95 we learn that "an Oyster-catcher (*Hematopus ostralegus*), which is rarely

seen in the Madras market, was obtained there in October, 1894, and that on the same day two specimens of the 'Lesser Coot-footed Stint' (*Phalaropus hyperboreus*) were also obtained. As regards the latter, Jerdon states that 'a single instance is on record of this bird in India. It was obtained by Dr. Stewart at Madras. Possibly it may be found to be more common when the Indian sea-coast has been well examined.'"

Occurrence of Bulweria columbina in China.—Mr. J. D. de La Touche has sent home a Bulwer's Petrel, which I hoped might prove to be G. R. Gray's Pacific species, *B. macgillivrayi*, described (in 'Cat. Birds of Tropical Islands of Pacific Ocean,' 1859, p. 56) as differing from *B. columbina* in having a larger bill and no sooty brown on the wings. Mr. La Touche's specimen, however, agrees with *B. columbina* in both these respects. It was obtained at Chapel Island, Amoy, in 1894.—HENRY H. SLATER*.

Nesting of Kaup's Flycatcher (Arses kaupi).—The beautiful nest of this pretty Flycatcher was found on December 3rd, 1894, by Mr. R. Hislop, Bloomfield River, Queensland. It was situated at the end of two hanging creepers about 30 feet from the ground and contained two eggs. A similar nest was found, and was likewise built on creepers, about 20 feet high, but it contained two young birds. The nest has the appearance of a hanging basket, cup-shaped, and is made of fine twigs from a scrub-creeper, and lined at the bottom with a few long hairlets. It is lightly bound together on the outside with cobwebs, on which are fastened pieces of lichen; it is slightly higher on each side, where it is bound on to the creepers with cobweb. It measures:—Internal diameter $1\frac{7}{8} \times 2$ inches, external $2\frac{1}{4}$; internal depth 1 inch in centre, and at the two sides $1\frac{3}{4}$; external $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch, and at sides $2\frac{1}{2}$. The eggs are nearly oval, very slightly tapering at the smaller end; they measure, A 2.04×1.46 , B 2.09×1.47 centimetres. They have a greyish cream-coloured ground, thickly sprinkled

* [*Bulweria bulweri* of O. Salvin.—EDD.]

with various-sized blotches of dull reddish brown, which are slightly more numerous at the larger end.—D. LE SOUEF.

Movements of Ornithologists.—We are pleased to hear that Mr. Theodore Bent will take a naturalist with him during his new expedition this winter. He has arranged that Mr. A. J. Chalmley shall accompany him, but he is going, not to Dhofar, we are sorry to say, but to the country on the Red Sea south of Suakim. This district has been already well worked by Heuglin, Jesse, Blanford, and others, but there are sure to be a lot of crumbs left, which an observant collector will pick up.

Mr. E. C. Taylor leaves for Egypt at the end of 1895, and, though not intending to devote himself specially to collecting birds, will be sure to make some additions to our knowledge of the Egyptian avifauna.

Mr. Perkins, the collector of the Committee for the Exploration of the Sandwich Islands, when last heard of was in Kauai. We trust that he will soon send home such specimens as are required for Mr. Rothschild and Mr. Scott B. Wilson to finish their respective works on the Hawaiian avifauna.

A new collection of birds has just been received from Mr. Alexander Whyte, Mr. H. H. Johnston's collector in Nyasaland, who is again settled at his headquarters at Zomba. These will be placed in Capt. Shelley's hands for determination.

The Position of the Feet of Birds during Flight—Mr. Holdsworth, in his interesting paper on this subject, seems to doubt whether all birds of prey carry their legs extended straight out behind during flight. I do not think it is likely that any do not. I have personal experience of most of the large Falcons, Goshawks, Sparrow-Hawks, in both a wild and trained state, and am convinced, as I have already stated in 'The Ibis,' that they invariably carry their legs behind, and that when carrying their prey they still maintain the same position, so that they tow their prey after

them, a performance which falconers, unfortunately, have too frequent opportunities of observing! The Owls carry their prey extended behind in the same way. I am fairly acquainted with most of the European Eagles and Vultures, and all that I have had opportunity to see sufficiently close carry their feet in the backward position, and their prey in the same manner, or, if too heavy, almost extended below them.

Pigeons carry their feet extended behind; the position is easily seen by watching white Pigeons flying round, when their pink legs show up plainly against their white feathers, or in watching Wood-Pigeons coming in to roost.

When launched on the wing, all our game-birds carry their legs out behind.

The Coots and Rails undoubtedly carry their feet in the backward position. This may be very plainly seen when Coots and Moorhens are passing overhead.

Although the backward position is the usual one with the Gull tribe, when floating in the air they very frequently tuck up one leg, in the same manner that birds do when standing on one leg on the ground. The leg is evidently resting on the shafts of the flank-feathers, and maintained in that position by the feathers themselves, without any effort on the part of the bird. Frequently first one and then the other leg is tucked up, so that the bird appears to have no legs at all. I have seen a Mallard do the same thing when passing over, although the backward position is, of course, the normal one in the Duck tribe.

Both the Bustards and Cranes carry their legs behind.—
E. G. B. MEADE-WALDO.

Egg of Pityriasis gymnocephala.—Mr. Edward Bartlett, Curator of the Sarawak Museum, sends us an account of the egg of the curious Bornean Crow-Shrike, *Pityriasis gymnocephala*, which he has published in the 'Sarawak Gazette' of November, 1895. The egg was taken from the body of a specimen recently shot, and was "ready for exclusion."

The egg is about the size of a Thrush's (*Turdus musicus*),

and measures approximately 1.25×1 inch. It is pure white, sparingly marked all over with large round and oval bright brown and slaty-grey spots of various sizes, the majority of these spots forming an irregular ring on the larger end. Mr. Bartlett is of opinion that, judging from the egg, the nearest ally of *Pityriasis* would be *Gymnorhina* of Australia, as arranged by Gadow (Cat. of Birds, viii. p. 90).

Proposed Memoir of the late A. G. More.—Many friends of the late naturalist Alexander G. More have expressed their wishes to see a short memoir of him published. Any one having letters or papers of interest relating to this subject is requested to lend them for selection to his sister, Miss More, 74 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin.

XIII.—*Obituary.*—MR. H. T. WHARTON, MR. H. SEEBOHM, Lieut. H. E. BARNES, DR. R. BROWN, and the Rt. Hon. T. H. HUXLEY.

HENRY THORNTON WHARTON, whose death we recorded in our last number, was the third son of the late Rev. H. J. Wharton, vicar of Mitcham, Surrey, where he was born on Nov. 16th, 1846. He was educated at Charterhouse and Wadham College, Oxford, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1871 and M.A. in 1874. Wharton selected the profession of Medicine, and became M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1875. In addition to a few papers in 'The Zoologist' and 'The Ibis' on the orthography, derivation, or meaning of the names of birds, he published a 'List of British Birds,' the genera being arranged according to Sundevall's method, and displayed much classical knowledge as editor of the 'B. O. U. List of British Birds,' during the five years which elapsed between the inception and conclusion of that work. Apart from ornithology, he was an excellent Greek scholar and a leading authority upon Sappho.

HENRY SEEBOHM.—With very deep regret we record the loss of our excellent friend and coadjutor Henry Seebohm,